

Gettysburg National Military Park
Snyder Farm Fields Prescribed Burn
Questions and Answers

How many acres? The project area is 13 acres.

Where is the proposed test burn? The burn unit is located approximately two miles south of the town of Gettysburg, just northeast of the intersection of Rt. 15 and South Confederate Ave. The unit itself is just north of a gravel road commonly called Snyder Lane (due to its proximity to the Snyder Farm) though this road name does not appear on most area maps.

Why was this area selected? This area was selected because of a combination of preferred elements such as:

- The field areas are a combination of retired agricultural fields and recently reclaimed lands through landscape rehabilitation.
- There are few cultural resources within this project area (no monuments, earthworks, structures or known archeological sites). There are replacement wooden fences and one stone fence. These features will be protected with sprinklers and what is commonly known as a wet line.
- Woody shrubs and invasive species are reclaiming the fields and a prescribed fire in this location will aid in managing vegetation.

How many people will be working on the prescribed fire? At a minimum the prescribed fire plan recommends 11 fire qualified staff for a fire of this size. Since this is a test fire we anticipate 20 to 25 additional staff from the National Park Service, the PA Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service assisting with the prescribed fire.

How will NPS contain the prescribed fire? The perimeter of the prescribed fire will be mowed prior to ignition. The mowed area will be wetted with water. Additionally there will be a sprinkler line in place along the perimeter to thoroughly wet down the control lines before the fire. Wind conditions and soil and vegetation moisture levels will dictate the exact time of ignition. If winds are too high or surrounding conditions are too dry the prescribed fire would be canceled and rescheduled for more favorable conditions.

How do prescribed fires differ in historic areas versus natural areas? In a natural area fire efforts may try to replicate natural fire cycles rather than accomplish a vegetative management goal. In a historic area like Gettysburg, potential archeological artifacts and features like fences and stone walls must be protected. We'll be protecting and monitoring these features during the prescribed fire.

Are there areas locally that use prescribed fire to manage vegetation? Yes, Fort Indiantown Gap, Antietam National Battlefield (Sharpsburg, MD), and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Have local fire groups and governments been contacted? Yes, we have informed all local fire companies as well as Cumberland Township, and the Fire Chief Gettysburg and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

What is the cost of burning this area? The average cost per acre is approximately \$150 per acre.